18th March 1955]

Harassment of Harijans in Thanigaipolur.

* 1447 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether the Government received any representation, dated 30th December 1954 from the Harijans of Thanigaipolur of Arkonam taluk, North Arcot district, through a Member of this House, complaining of the harassment of Harijans and the objections of caste Hindus to their taking a Harijan dead body to the burial ground through a public road? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Torture of one Appukutty by the police.

* 1448 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Chief Secretary to the Madras Government has received any memorandum, dated 14th December 1954 from Keraleeya Viswakarma Vamsodharana Sangham, Kozhikode, alleging torture by the Police of Sri C. Appukkutty alias Ayyappan and his son in Kunnamangalam Police lock-up on 27th November 1954;

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Executive First-class Magistrate, Kozhikode, inquired into the allegations and has come to the conclusion that the allegations are baseless."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, may I know whether in the application given to the Chief Secretary, the applicant alleged that after his arrest one constable by name Gopalan Nair and one Palakode Moidu came to the applicant's house and said that if money was given, the persons would be released, whether any enquiry was made into these allegations and if so the result of the enquiry? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. All the allegations contained in the petition were enquired into and they were found to be false. The House will also be interested to know that the person concerned was charged with counterfeiting of coins. Naturally, his house was searched and, therefore, it is he is interested in making all these allegations against the police."

Grievances of village munsifs of Erode taluk.

* 1449 *Q.*—Sri K. T. RAJU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any request from the village munsifs of Erode taluk for additional staff to assist them in the heavy additional work in connection with the Lower Bhavani Project; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government?